

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device comprising:
 - a fax gateway including,
 - a storage device for storing an e-mail message received from ~~a~~an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message ~~to be~~ being converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient having access to a fax device;
 - at least one fax modem device for transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network,
 - wherein ~~reception of the email message in the form of a fax document is not necessarily known to the e-mail sender a fax number designating the fax recipient is not contained in the e-mail message and the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device allows a fax recipient to receive e-mail messages by the use of a fax device without requiring computer equipment.~~
2. (Currently amended) An AWA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the storage device further ~~for storing~~can store a fax telephone number associated with the fax device of the fax recipient, ~~and for using the fax telephone number for establishing~~ to be used to establish a call for the transmission of the fax document.
3. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the storage device ~~for~~can further storing ~~store~~ a time-of-day for specifying a range of time during which the fax document is transmitted.
4. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 further including a server device ~~for storing~~ to store a fax telephone number associated with the fax device of the fax recipient, ~~and for using~~ the fax telephone number for establishing a call for the transmission of the fax document, said server device ~~for further storing~~ to store a time-of-day for specifying a range of time during which the fax document is transmitted.

5. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the storage device ~~for further creating~~ to be used to create a fax cover page for transmission thereof to the fax recipient.
6. (Original) An AWA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 5 wherein the e-mail message includes an e-mail address and the fax cover page includes a sender field extracted from the e-mail address.
7. (Previously Presented) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 6 wherein the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device assigns an e-mail address to the fax recipient, the e-mail address being identified by a fax telephone number identifying the fax device and wherein the fax cover page for further including a destination field extracted from the fax recipient e-mail address.
8. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 7 wherein the e-mail message includes a subject field and the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device for including the e-mail subject field contents in the fax cover page prior to transmission thereof to the fax recipient.
9. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the storage device for further assigning a home directory for storage of e-mail messages directed to the fax recipient and upon receipt of the e-mail message, for storing the email message within the assigned home directory of the fax recipient.
10. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the fax gateway is coupled to the public switching telephone network
11. (Previously Presented) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the fax gateway is coupled to the public switching telephone network through a digital communications link.
12. (Original) An AWA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the fax gateway is coupled to the packet switching network through a digital communications link.

13. (Currently amended): An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the storage device is a computer system having a conversion program ~~for causing conversion of~~ to convert the e-mail message to a fax document.
14. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 13 wherein the storage device is a computer system having an e-mail program for causing storage of the e-mail message.
15. (Original) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 14 wherein the e-mail program and the conversion program reside externally to the fax gateway.
16. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 wherein the fax gateway ~~further for receiving~~ can receive a reply fax document from the fax recipient, ~~for converting~~ and can convert the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message and ~~for transmitting~~ transmit the reply e-mail message to the sender.
17. (Currently amended) A method for sending and receiving e-mail messages using a fax device comprising:
- receiving an e-mail message through a data communications network from an e-mail sender;
 - converting the e-mail message into a fax document; and
 - transmitting the fax document to a fax recipient without extracting a fax number from the e-mail message thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data networking network ~~and transmission of the e-mail message in the form of a fax document not necessarily known to the e-mail sender.~~
18. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 17 further including ~~the step of~~ receiving a reply from the fax recipient in the form of a reply fax document, converting the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message and transmitting the reply e-mail message through the data communications network.

19. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 17 further including ~~the step of~~ verifying a destination user address for identifying the fax recipient as being a known user.
20. (Original) A method as recited in claim 19 wherein upon unsuccessful verification of the destination user address sending a failed message.
21. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored therein computer readable program code comprising instructions for performing the following steps:
receiving an e-mail message, from through a data communications network;
converting the e-mail message into a fax document; and
transmitting the fax document to a fax recipient without extracting a fax number from the e-mail message thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data networking network ~~and transmission of the e-mail message in the form of a fax document not necessarily known to the e-mail sender.~~
22. (New) A device comprising:
means for receiving an e-mail message, from through a data communications network;
means for converting the e-mail message into a fax document; and
means for transmitting the fax document to a fax recipient without extracting a fax number from the e-mail message thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data networking network.
23. (New) The device of claim 22 further comprising means for receiving a reply from the fax recipient in the form of a reply fax document, converting the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message and transmitting the reply e-mail message through the data communications network.
24. (New) The device of claim 22 further comprising means for verifying a destination user address for identifying the fax recipient as being a known user.